Graduate & Professional Student Association
Executive Board – Declaration of Candidacy
2014-2015

Name: Meghan Pierce

Department/School: Psychology
Office Sought: Vice President

Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:
(GPSA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests).

Over the past four years, I have been involved in several leadership positions in different community and university organizations. My first academic leadership position was as president of the Student Organization of Addiction Professionals (SOAP) from 2010-2011. During my presidency, I worked closely with the State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals (SNAAP), which led to my nomination as secretary for the 2010-2012 term.

I served as secretary for SNAAP for two terms. During my tenure with SNAAP I was involved in developing and initiating a scholarship program for students studying addiction therapy. I was also involved in planning our monthly luncheons and planning our national conference during the years it was held in Las Vegas.

In addition, I served as secretary and am currently President of the Psychology Department’s student government, the Experimental Student Committee (ESC). During my tenure as secretary I documented and distributed our meeting minutes, and helped to plan our department’s interview weekend. During my term as president, I planned and ran our monthly meetings, organized luncheons, and acting as a liaison between faculty, student organizations, national organizations and the community. I was also in charge of planning our interview day weekend by working with faculty to schedule interviews, meetings and parties. I was also in charge of organizing housing for applicants and was the point of contact for applicants during the months leading up to the interview.

Currently, I am serving as Secretary for the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). This position has given me great insight into
graduate student issues and university policies. Through this position I have served on several campus-wide committees and GPSA committees. I have worked closely with the President and Vice President and understand the responsibilities of the position. I feel like my experience has provided me with the skills needed to fulfill the role of Vice President. I truly believe in the goals and mission of the GPSA and hope to continue serving the organization in the best way possible.

Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:

Serving as GPSA secretary for the past year has been a great learning experience. I am interested in becoming Vice President of the GPSA in order to serve the organization in a greater capacity. The GPSA serves an important role in the graduate community, both in increasing graduate student scholarship and providing a voice for graduate students. I am specifically interested in leading the sponsorship committee and organizing the Research Forum weekend. Sponsorship is an important part of our graduate student community. Not only is sponsorship important to helping graduate students disseminate their research and projects throughout the country, but also it allows graduate students to complete their research in a timely manner. Supporting graduate student research will be an important factor in propelling the university to Tier 1 status. I am also interested in contributing to the continuation of the Graduate Research Reception and planning the Research Forum. Both events are exciting ways to bring attention to graduate student work.

I am also enthusiastic about the role GPSA plays in bettering education for students in Nevada. The legislative session will begin next year. I feel that this will be an important year for graduate education, both in bringing about positive changes and in adding strength the foundation previous GPSA leaders have built in the previous years.
April 3, 2014

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of Meghan Pierce’s application for the position of GPSA Vice President. I have known Meghan for approximately five years, first as an undergraduate student, and more recently as a doctoral student in the Experimental Psychology graduate program. I can say with complete confidence that Meghan will carry out her duties as GPSA Vice President with the highest level of competence, integrity and efficiency. She is one of the most organized students I’ve had the pleasure to advise. Not only does she oversee a large group of undergraduate research assistants in our lab, she also teaches two classes per semester and is currently GPSA Secretary. She has proven her ability to balance multiple responsibilities and to work well with others in a variety of academic and professional settings. Her experience as GPSA Secretary will allow her to transition into the role of Vice President. In short, Meghan has my most enthusiastic recommendation for this position. Should you have any questions about her qualifications, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Laurel Pritchard, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

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Education

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Experimental Psychology, Ph.D.
Emphasis: Neuroscience
Estimated Graduation Date: Spring 2016

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Clinical Mental Health Counseling, M.S.
Emphasis: Addictions
Graduation Date: August, 2011

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Psychology, B.A.
Graduation Date: May, 2009

Professional Experience

08/2013-present  Part-Time Instructor Graduate Assistant
- Supervisor: Laurel Pritchard, Ph.D.
- Duties: Preparing course content and delivering lectures.
- Courses: Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101)

05/2013-present  Secretary, Graduate and Professional Student Association
- Supervisor: Kate Korgan, Ph.D.
- Role: Secretary
- Duties: Preparing and posting meeting agenda and minutes, sitting as chair of the Publication Committee and holding a seats on Graduate College committees.

11/2012-present  Research Intern, Cleveland Clinic, Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health
- Supervisor: Sarah Banks, Ph.D.
- Role: Visiting researcher
Volunteer Experience

2010-2012  U.S. Vets Stand down
- Two-day event in which many organizations come together to provide services to Veterans.
- Services include: medical, housing, legal, dental, food, clothing, toiletries, mental health, etc.
- My main role in this event was doing intakes assessments.

Professional Affiliations

2010-present  The Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)
2010-present  State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC affiliate)
2009-2012  American Counseling Association
2008-present  Association for Psychological Sciences
2011-present  Society for Neuroscience

Student Affiliations

2011-2013  Graduate Neuroscience Association
2010-present  Student Organization of Addiction Professionals
2011-present  Experimental Students Committee
2010-present  Chi Sigma Iota-Omega Alpha Chapter
2010-2011  Neuroscience Journal Club
2008-present  Psi Chi

Awards and Honors

Grants:
INBRE Small Grant, 2013

Awards:
Summer Session Scholarship, 2013
Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship, 2011, 2013
Chi Sigma Iota, Alpha Omega, Outstanding Research Contribution, 2010
Honors:
2007-2009  Dean’s List

Nominations:
Nevada Regents Scholar, 2010
Chi Sigma Iota, Outstanding Masters Level Student, 2010

Service

2013-present  Graduate College Program Review Committee

2013-present  Graduate College Curriculum Committee

2013- present  Chair: GPSA Publications Committee

2013-present  Chair: GPSA Social Media

2013- present  President: Experimental Students Committee

2013-present  Campus Representative: Association for Psychological Sciences

2012- present  Peer Reviewer: RISE award, Association for Psychological Sciences

2012- 2013:  Secretary: Experimental Students Committee

2011-2012:  First Year Cohort Representative: Experimental Students Committee

2010-present  Secretary: State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals

2010-2011  President: Student Organization of Addiction Professionals

Certifications

2010-2012  Certified Problem Gambling Counselor, Intern
Duties: Conducting research, using fMRI, examining differences between wine experts and novices.

06/2011-2013  
**Graduate Research Assistant**
- Supervisor: Laurel Pritchard, Ph.D.
- Role: Research and Teacher Assistant
- Duties: Conducting research, teacher assistant duties, and other related projects.

05/2010-08/2011  
**Harrah’s Graduate Assistant in Problem Gambling Counseling**
- Supervisor: Larry Ashley Ed.S, LCADC, CPGC
- Role: Lead Counselor
- Duties: Conducting individual counseling, research and other related projects.

01/2010-08/2011  
**U.S Veteran’s Initiative**
- Supervisor: Shalimar T. Cabrera, MSW
- Role: Counseling Intern
- Duties: Conducting individual and group counseling.

6/2008-12/2008  
**Baby and Child Rebel Lab**
- Supervisor: Jennifer L. Rennels, Ph.D.
- Position: Undergraduate Research Assistant
- Duties: Recruiting infant participants, transforming video into usable data, and conducting studies. Project manager for scheduling, which entailed assigning weekly calls, ensuring protocol was followed, and answering other lab member's questions. I was also responsible for running reliability using Excel and SPSS.

Publications


Presentations


References

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